



THE AD HOC GROUP FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up

June 1, 2020

Each week, the Ad Hoc Group Weekly Round Up will feature hashtags and/or tweets (follow us at [@fundNIH](#)) suggested by members of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) advocacy community. We encourage all readers who are active on social media to use these messages, and we welcome suggestions from the community for future issues of the Weekly Round Up. Here is this week's featured tweet:

[ScienceInsider @ScienceInsider June 1](#)

ICYMI: A profile of psychologist Jennifer Eberhardt, who works with law enforcement on unconscious bias—and its tragic consequences for society. A very relevant story for the current moment.

House to Begin FY 2021 Markups in Late June

House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) shared an update that the House plans to consider all 12 FY 2021 appropriations bills before August recess, with markups beginning in late June, according to a “Dear Colleague” letter sent May 29 and [reported in CQ](#) (subscription required). The Senate appropriations committee has not released a schedule, though Senate Appropriations Chairman Richard Shelby shared with reporters that he hopes to begin marking up bills in late June as well.

Anonymizing Peer Review for the NIH Director's Transformative Research Award Applications

NIH released a [Funding Opportunity Announcement \(FOA\) for the NIH Director's Transformative Research Awards](#) on May 21. According to NIH Director of Extramural Research Michael Lauer, MD, in a [May 27 Open Mike blog post](#), this award is aimed at funding groundbreaking, unconventional, and creative scientific projects. NIH hopes to increase diversity in the 2021 awardee pool and intends to utilize an anonymous review process to decrease the impacts of bias from peer reviewers.

NIDA Director Discusses Opioid Use During COVID-19 with Miss America

National Institutes of Drug Abuse Director Nora Volkow, MD, [chatted live with Miss America 2020](#) Camille Schreier about substance use, especially opioids, during the COVID-19 pandemic. Topics discussed included the misinformation about opioid misuse, proper uses for opioids, and the science behind how opioids work and the science of addiction.

Podcast: Exploring the Future of Health Care Policy After COVID-19

Health care professionals in academic medicine are on the front lines of the coronavirus, besieged with an influx of patients, personal protective equipment shortages, and shifting care guidance. While worried for their safety and that of their families, they are still inspired to serve the patients who need them. In the [May 29 edition of the "Beyond the White Coat" podcast](#), David Skorton, MD, AAMC president and CEO, talks with Sen. Roy Blunt (R-Mo.) and Rep. Donna Shalala (D-Fla.) about how health care policy will change for patients, the research community, and the workforce in the wake of the COVID-19 global pandemic.

One Voice Against Cancer Holds Virtual Lobby Day

On May 19, Once Voice Against Cancer (OVAC) held its 20th Lobby Day as a virtual event due to COVID-19. Coalition volunteers virtually met with key Senate and House offices to make the case to increase funding for cancer research and prevention programs. OVAC shared tweets [during](#) and [after](#) the event to promote the coalition's [Virtual Lobby Day requests](#).

Requests for Public Comment

NCCIH Seeks Feedback on Strategic Plan – June 30

NIH's National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH) issued an April 27 [request for information](#) on the Center's five-year strategic plan. According to the RFI, "The NCCIH is developing a new strategic plan to guide the Center's research efforts and priority setting for 2021 through 2026. Seeking input into the strategic planning process is critical for identification and consideration of research areas and topics to be included in the new plan. NCCIH is requesting input in any or all of 9 topic areas." [Comments are due](#) by June 30.

NIDDK Seeks Feedback on Strategic Plan – July 31

NIH's National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) issued a March 16 [request for information](#) on the institute's five-year strategic plan. According to the RFI, "The goal of the process is to develop a broad vision for accelerating research into the causes, prevention, and treatment of diseases and conditions within the Institute's mission," and focuses on five broad themes for community input. [Comments are due](#) by July 31.

NINDS Seeks Feedback on Strategic Planning Process

The National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) is embarking on an institute-wide strategic planning process, and published a [July 2019 request for information](#) on the process. The goal of the process is to tune its practices and policies to its vision and mission, in order to better serve and anticipate the needs of the research and patient communities and the public. The mission of NINDS is to seek fundamental knowledge about the brain and nervous system and to use that knowledge to reduce the burden of neurological disease. Those interested in submitting comments for consideration as NINDS establishes a new strategic plan may still do so [through this form](#).

Upcoming Events

BRAIN Initiative Investigators Meeting – June 1-2

The sixth annual [BRAIN Initiative Investigators Meeting](#) will take place virtually on June 1-2. The open meeting convenes BRAIN Initiative awardees, representatives from contributing federal agencies and participating non-federal agencies, as well as members of the public. [Click here to register](#).

Webinar: COVID-19 Research at Columbia – June 2

Please join Columbia University Irving Medical Center for a webinar, “COVID-19 Research at Columbia” on Tuesday, June 2 at 6:00pm EST. Attendees will learn about cutting-edge research happening at Columbia University aimed at investigating ways to better understand, prevent, and treat COVID-19. [See attached flyer](#) for more information and [view the webinar here](#).

Virtual Briefing on COVID and the Brain – June 3

The Society for Neuroscience and American Brain coalition are co-hosting a virtual Congressional Neuroscience Caucus Briefing ([flyer attached](#)) examining how those exposed to COVID-19 could face a heightened risk for a range of brain diseases and disorders, from depression and psychosis to immune and olfactory complications of the central nervous system. The virtual briefing will take place on Wednesday, June 3, from 3:00-4:00pm EST. [Please register here](#).

ASM Briefing on Pursuing a SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine – June 4

The American Society for Microbiology (ASM) is continuing its virtual briefing series to showcase the latest science behind COVID-19 Diagnostics, Vaccines, and Therapeutics. Please join Part 2 of this series ([flyer attached](#)) **Thursday, June 4 at 2:00 pm Eastern**, “In Pursuit of a Vaccine for SARS-CoV-2.” Join ASM president Dr. Robin Patel, and ASM vaccine research experts Dr. Paul DuPrex and Dr. Stacey Schultz-Cherry to learn more about the science of vaccine development, what it takes to develop and disseminate a vaccine for a novel virus like SARS-CoV-2, and what resources will continue to be necessary from Congress and the Administration to accomplish this critical milestone in our response to COVID-19. [Please register here](#).

ASM’s COVID-19 briefing series Part 3 will focus on therapeutics and is scheduled for June 18. Registration and more details to come. Questions? Contact Mary Lee Watts at mwatts@asmusa.org.

NIH COVID-19 Resources

[NIH COVID-19 resource for applicants and grantees](#) including guidance for various aspects of research and grant application processes, as well as FAQs and COVID-19 funding opportunities.

[COVID-19 “Updates History” webpage](#) that details relevant updates for applicants and grantees by date.

[FAQ document on COVID-19 flexibilities](#) related to policies and programs affecting the grants process.

[HHS COVID-19 awards tracking website](#) including data on awards made by all HHS awarding agencies with supplemental appropriations provided through the first three COVID-19 supplemental packages (Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020; Families First Coronavirus Response Act; and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security [CARES] Act).

Job Postings

CRD Associates Seeks Vice President

CRD Associates, a collaborative, mid-sized, health-care focused lobbying firm is seeking a Vice President with experience and interest in federal health policy to join its team. The ideal candidate has 5 to 7 years of relevant professional experience in Capitol Hill, federal agency, or other advocacy work and demonstrated knowledge in one or more areas of public policy relevant to our clients, which include provider organizations, patient advocacy organizations, and coalitions. [See attached flyer](#) for additional information. To apply, please send a resume and cover letter to the attention of the VP, Administration & Finance at info@dc-crd.com.

AAI Seeks Science Policy Analyst

The American Association of Immunologists (AAI), a non-profit professional biomedical research association, seeks a motivated and intellectually inquisitive individual to provide scientific expertise to the AAI public affairs program. This position supports the Director of Public Policy and Government Affairs, the members of the AAI Committee on Public Affairs, and other AAI staff in developing scientific and policy positions that convey the views, concerns, and interests of the AAI membership. Qualified candidates should submit a cover letter with resume, including publications, and salary requirements, to FASEB Human Resources at resumes@faseb.org, or visit the [FASEB employment website](#) to apply. [See attached](#) and the [FASEB job site](#) to view a detailed job description.

Please Note: *If you have information of interest to the NIH advocacy community that you would like to share with the Ad Hoc Group, please forward it to Christa Wagner at chwagner@aamc.org or Tannaz Rasouli at trasouli@aamc.org.*